Dear Chairman Cole and Ranking Member DeLauro:

As you begin work on the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations bill for Fiscal Year 2018, we ask that you continue to strongly support funding for the 21st Century Community Learning Centers (21st CCLC) Program. Specifically, we ask that you provide funding of no less than $1.167 billion, which is equivalent to the current funding level. The Subcommittee’s support for 21st CCLC’s is especially crucial this year, given the Administration’s proposal to eliminate funding for the program. This would be devastating to families across the country who rely on afterschool and summer learning programs.

The dedicated funding stream for afterschool programming provided by the 21st Century Community Learning Centers Program ensures that children have access to services which provide extended learning time, foster the development of critical thinking and other essential skills, and provide many children with meals and healthy snacks. The Collaborative for Academic, Social, and Emotional Learning (CASEL) recently analyzed 75 studies of 68 afterschool programs, and found that students showed improved behavior and performed better academically than students who did not participate in the program. Students who regularly attend these programs have better grades and behavior in school, better peer relations and emotional well-being, and lower incidences of drug-use, violence, and pregnancy.

More and more working families rely on 21st CCLC’s each year to ensure their children are in a safe environment during non-school hours, allowing them to excel in their jobs. Parents with children who utilize afterschool programs tend to be more productive and miss fewer work days.

Eliminating funding for 21st CCLC’s would deny access to afterschool programming to 1.6 million children throughout the nation. This program is supported in Congress on a bipartisan basis, and, according to Afterschool Alliance, four out of five parents support public funding for afterschool programming. Preserving this program helps ensure a healthy economy, stronger communities, and improved educational outcomes.

Thank you for your continued support for afterschool programming. We ask that the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee ensure that the 21st
Century Community Learning Centers Program remains a vital resource to communities with a funding level of at least $1.167 billion in FY 2018.

Sincerely,

David N. Cicilline  
Member of Congress

Lou Barletta  
Member of Congress

Ryan Costello  
Member of Congress

Ted Deutch  
Member of Congress

Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan  
Member of Congress

James R. Langevin  
Member of Congress

Yvette D. Clarke  
Member of Congress

Ron Kind  
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Kathleen M. Rice  
Member of Congress

Don Young  
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Ruben J. Hinojosa  
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Peter Welch  
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Adam B. Schiff  
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Bonnie Watson Coleman  
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Peter DeFazio  
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Daniel T. Kildee  
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Dina Titus  
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Jerry McNERNEY  
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Debbie Dingell  
*Member of Congress*
Steve Stivers
Member of Congress